



Consultation, IA <consultation@bia.gov>

proposed changes in the process for Federal Acknowledgment of tribes

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Mon, Jul 14, 2014 at 3:07 PM

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To whom it may concern in the BIA:

I am writing to support the proposed changes in the process for Federal Acknowledgment of tribes

It's my understanding that the proposed changes are positive and more fair than what's currently in place.

In particular, section (83.11(a)) is positive in that it supports removal of the requirement that a tribe be identified by external parties from 1900 present. However it is also vague in what is expected to be included to establish tribal existence prior to 1900. It should be stated this should be liberally applied to allow for various historic circumstances. Additionally, the year 1900 should not be hard and fast but a general benchmark allowing for tribes to use dates prior to or reasonably close but subsequent to that year to establish their proofs. It should be kept in mind that some tribes were previously identified as uniquely distinct communities, but due to racial tensions of the era and area were only subsequently identified by the term "Indian." It should be clear that this must be reasonably acknowledged in reviewing evidence provided by petitioner.

Thank you for your attention,

Bart Everson
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